

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1424

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic George Crouse Tannery ; William Nace Tannery

and/or common Old Fort

### 2. Location

street & number 2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road    not for publication

city, town Manchester   X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

### 3. Classification

| Category                | Ownership                  | Status                      | Present Use                                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>  </u> district      | <u>  </u> public           | <u>  </u> X occupied        | <u>  </u> X agriculture <u>  </u> museum          |
| <u>  </u> X building(s) | <u>  </u> X private        | <u>  </u> unoccupied        | <u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park               |
| <u>  </u> structure     | <u>  </u> both             | <u>  </u> work in progress  | <u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> private residence |
| <u>  </u> site          | <b>Public Acquisition</b>  | <b>Accessible</b>           | <u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious       |
| <u>  </u> object        | <u>  </u> in process       | <u>  </u> yes: restricted   | <u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific         |
|                         | <u>  </u> being considered | <u>  </u> yes: unrestricted | <u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation     |
|                         | <u>  </u> X not applicable | <u>  </u> X no              | <u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:               |

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David & Holly Fleming

street & number 2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Rd. telephone no.: 374-9439

city, town Hampstead state and zip code MD 21074

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber LWS 1626

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 306

city, town Westminster state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1424

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |  |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary:

The George Crouse Tannery is located at 2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road, on the southeast side of the road, approximately 1½ miles southwest of Manchester in northeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The complex consists of a log house, a frame bank barn, a wagon shed, and a poultry house. The site is bisected by the old roadbed. The house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with a parged foundation and a gable roof of standing-seam metal with a northeast-to-southwest ridge. The house faces southeast toward the old roadbed and is banked on the southeast, with an exposed foundation on the northwest. On the southeast elevation, the first-story south bay has a door. The second story has three new 6/6 sash. These sash replace the earlier 2/2 sash and were recently installed. There is a one-story, three-bay, shed-roof porch with standing-seam metal and turned posts. There is a one-story gable roof addition on the southwest. It is a two-bay by two-bay structure. The first story has a side-passage plan originally with one room to the east and two rooms on the northwest. This was later altered after 1921 when the northeast wall of the passage was moved further to the northeast, and the northwest rooms were opened up to create one room. The log walls had hand-split vertical lath. There is a dog-leg stair on the southwest. The second story has a side passage along the southwest with an enclosed winder stair to the attic. There is a cross passage that runs northeast to southwest down the center of the house from the side passage. There are four rooms ranged along this cross passage. The northeast end of this cross passage is enclosed to create two closets, one for the north chamber, and another for the east chamber.

Contributing Resources: 3

The George Crouse Tannery is located at 2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road, on the southeast side of the road, approximately 1½ miles southwest of Manchester in northeastern Carroll County, Maryland. The complex consists of a log house, a frame bank barn, a wagon shed, and a poultry house on a site that slopes generally to the northeast towards Old Fort Schoolhouse Road. The site is bisected by the old roadbed which was realigned to the northwest.

The house is a two-story, three-bay by two-bay structure with a parged foundation. There is aluminum siding on everything but the southeast elevation first story, which has bevelled novelty siding, and a gable roof of standing-seam metal with a northeast-to-southwest ridge. The house faces southeast toward the old roadbed and is banked on the southeast, with an exposed foundation on the northwest. On the southeast elevation, the first-story south bay has a door with one light over two panels. The panels have sunk fields

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

and steep, quirked ogee panel moulds. The door has a bullnose frame, and there is a four-light transom. The center bay has a door with a beaded interior frame. It has etched glass on the top that has an urn with flowers and a geometric pattern above it. There is a one-light transom. The door has two panels with sunk fields and ovolo panel moulds. The east bay has a 2/2 double-hung sash with a bullnose-moulded frame. The second story has three new 6/6 sash in bullnose frames. These sash replace the earlier 2/2 sash and were recently installed. There is a one-story, three-bay, shed-roof porch with standing-seam metal and three turned posts. There were originally four, but one was removed. The porch also has jigsaw brackets. There is an interior brick chimney on the northwest end. There is a one-story gable roof addition on the southwest that has aluminum siding and asphalt shingle roof, with a ridge that runs northeast-to-southwest, and a parged foundation. It is a two-bay by two-bay structure and has new 1/1 sash. It also has an exterior brick chimney.

The southwest elevation of the house has no openings on the first or second stories, and has two metal louver vents in the gable end. The northwest elevation is laid out as four bays with no openings on either story of the west bay. The northwest elevation has metal vents between the north and north-center bays, and has a 2/2 sash in the three northern bays. The second story has a 2/2 sash in both the north and west center bays. The northeast elevation has two typical 2/2 sash on both the first and second stories. The gable end has two metal louvered vents.

The cellar has a hewn summer beam that runs northeast to southwest and is 9 inches deep by 8 inches wide. There were at least two posts underneath the summer beam that were eaten by termites. The joists are mill sawn and run northwest to southeast. They are 2 to 2½ inches by 6½ to 7 inches and are spaced 22¼ to 23¾ inches on centers. The joists have a center tenon into the summer beam. Some of them are pegged. The remainder are probably pegged, but the pegs don't pass through the summer beam. Many of the joists have pulled apart from the summer beam and some of the tenons have holes and probably the remains of broken pegs. The joists rest on an approximately one-inch-wide board set on the foundation walls. The flooring above is 5-inch-wide mill-sawn boards that run northwest to southeast. On the southwest end of the cellar, south of the summer beam, is a header that runs northwest to southeast, like the joists. This header supports one end of joists that run northeast to southwest from the southwest wall. These short joists are mill sawn and tenoned. Several of the tenons pass through the header with a peg in the tenon, but the peg does not pass through the header. On the northeast side of the header is a board that is sistered onto the side of it and is fastened with cut nails. Also on the southwest elevation, west of the summer beam, is a location of a former stairway from the first story down to the cellar. The stairway was removed. Part of the stone foundation on the southwest wall is narrower than most of the foundation wall to give more room for the stairs to come down. The bottom of the southwest-most joist is also notched out near the summer beam to give

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 3

clearance or head room to get up the stairs. The interior wall here is plastered, and there is probably a winder or a landing at the foot of the stairs. The newel post from the first story passes through the floor in this vicinity. It is 1 inch by 3½ inches and has a wedge through it. There is an opening on the southwest wall of the cellar, to the south, that had a doorway to the exterior, but the frame has been removed. The northwest wall has two boarded-up openings. The northeast wall has one bricked-up opening, and it also has an interior-brick chimney flue. The northeast wall originally had a large fireplace set to the southeast side of the summer beam. There is a header here for the fireplace opening. This space now has circular-sawn infill that is wirenailed, and there are beaded-edge boards.

The cellar addition on the southwest has a hewn summer beam that runs northeast to southwest. It is 5½ by 7½ inches. The joists are mill sawn and appear to be reused. Some have lath nails, while others don't, and there is no obvious pattern. The joists are 2¼ to 2½ inches by 5½ to 6 inches deep, and are spaced 24 to 24½ inches on centers. They have a center tenon-and-peg hole in the summer beam, but there are no pegs; Instead, wire nails are used. It would appear that the whole floor structure has been reused and moved from somewhere else. At least some of the joists appear to have been turned upside down. There are flooring nails in the joists. The joists now sit up higher than the top of the summer beam. The floor above is planed pine and is about 3¼ inches wide. There is a new stair opening with a wire-nailed header on the northwest wall. The northwest wall appears to be tied into the house foundation. The stone has striping on the mortar joints, and it had an opening that is now filled in. It would appear that the northwest wall was originally the exterior face of an earlier wing on the southwest side of the house. This wing was set northwest of the current addition. The current addition foundation has been added on the southeast and southwest and part of the northeast walls. The sills for this addition are circular sawn, as are the studs.

The first story has a side-passage plan originally with one room to the east and two rooms on the northwest. This was later altered after 1921 when the northeast wall of the passage was moved further to the northeast, and the northwest rooms were opened up to create one room. A powder room was later added underneath the stairs. In the side passage, the front or southeast door was apparently originally eight panels, but has now been opened up, judging from the tenons in the stiles. The six top panels are now glazed. The architrave has three fillets and a beaded interior edge. It also has simple bullseye corner blocks. There is a plain baseboard. The log walls had hand-split vertical lath. The plaster was originally whitewashed. It appears that it had a blue-tinted whitewash that was original or early, and it may have had white with a red band along the top of the wall. The southwest wall has a later door leading to the addition, with a transom above it. The logs on the southwest wall have been partly exposed. They are hewn on the sides and have stone chinking and mortar. There is one narrow board set between each pair of logs, but these

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 4

boards are not placed entirely underneath of each other. The top log on the first story is cut to take the end of the summer beam that runs northeast to southwest. There is a wood block set between the logs that this summer beam rests on. Just northwest of this cut in the log that holds the summer beam is a notch on the southwest side of the log. This notch appears to have originally held either another summer beam or a plate for an addition on the southwest. In the chinking on the southwest wall appears to be marked the initials "SEH". The passage floor is now covered, but the flooring is mostly  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. Some of the boards are  $3\frac{3}{4}$  or  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide. There is a dog-leg stair on the southwest with an open stringer. It has rectangular-in-plan balusters set in holes in the treads and a  $\frac{3}{4}$ -round handrail. The balusters are toe-nailed to the bottom side of the handrail with cut nails. It also has a turned newel. The area beneath the landing is now enclosed and functions as a powder room. The door to this room is old and reused. It has six panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds. There is a cast iron rim lock marked "R & E Co. USA", with a brass knob. The inner side of the door is the same, but is very weathered, as if this was originally an exterior door, perhaps underneath the landing, giving access to the rear.

In the east room, the southwest wall, has been moved back. It appears that this was always one large room, as there was no evidence that a wall ever divided it. The room has a plain baseboard. The architrave matches that on the passage. The door to this room has six panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds. The rim lock has been replaced with a mortise lock, and the hinges are later, too. The southeast door has an architrave with a center cavetto that has a bead on either side of it. There are also bullseye corner blocks. This was originally a window that was converted to a door. The two bottom panels on the door have sunk fields with no panel moulds.

The north room has had the southwest wall almost completely removed. Ghosts on the ceiling and walls and floor of this room suggest that it was originally two rooms, a one-bay room to the northeast and a two-bay room to the southwest. The architraves have a large quirked bead on the inner edge. The sill has a bead on the bottom edge. The baseboard has a quirked ogee and bevel on top. On the southeast wall of the southwest half of this room is a wide opening that was later closed over. This opening appears to have gone through several changes. The jamb boards have mortises on each side for three hinges. The opening is set for double doors. The door frame is wire-nailed and appears that its original finish was a combed finish over a white base. The door header, however, spans more than the width of the opening and is covered by a piece of split lath with a cut nail, suggesting that the header, and thus the opening, are original. All of the studs above the header also have hand-split lath. The northeast stud appears to be in its original position and has holes both for wire nails and probably for nails that held an earlier door frame board. The southwest stud, however, appears to be reused. It is wire-nailed in place, but has no holes in the stud for the earlier frame board. There is also a black mark on the floor that

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 5

appears to show where a threshold was originally attached. This black mark continues from the northeast stud to southwest of the southwest stud, also suggesting that this opening was originally wider than just for double doors. Unfortunately, the header was cut off when the passage wall was moved back in the 1920's so it is not possible to tell how far the header extended to the southwest and, thus, how wide the opening originally was. There is, however, a door that is stored off-site that appears to have come from this opening. It has six panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds. It is the height of this wide opening and half the width of the current opening, and was probably reused when the opening was narrowed to take double doors. This door has three mortises on each side of it for hinges. The stile on the middle-hinged side has a metal plate set into it at the bottom with a bolt that slides down. It also has a groove at the top of the stile for another slide bolt. The door is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged, and on one stile has a half lap where the doors would come together. This door was clearly part of a bi-fold door system. The only unanswerable question is whether this opening was for three doors or for four. In the east corner of the room is a built-in closet that originally backed up to the fireplace in the east room. The doors of this closet are on the northwest side and have the same architrave as found around the windows. The top door of the closet has four panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds. There is a keyhole, but the lock has been removed from the back side. The door has been hung on plain cast iron butt hinges. The bottom door has two panels identical to the top and also has a keyhole, but the lock is missing. On the southwest side of the cupboard is a piece of plain baseboard that is painted black. This appears to be an original finish treatment. The northeast wall has hand-split vertical lath. The summer beam on the second story runs northwest to southeast, and one of the second-story joists is visible. It is mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged into the summer beam.

The second story has a side passage along the southwest with an enclosed winder stair to the attic. The southeast end of the passage is now closed off to create a small room, but appears to have originally been open. There is a cross passage that runs northeast to southwest down the center of the house from the side passage. There are four rooms ranged along this cross passage. The northeast end of this cross passage is enclosed to create two closets, one for the north chamber, and another for the east chamber. Both the north and east chambers were accessed from the cross passage. The west chamber is accessed from the side passage. The south chamber probably was also originally accessed from the side passage. The south and east chambers have been altered to create one large room and have been studded out and sheet-rocked. No original details are now visible. The door to the south room appears to have been from the stair passage. The door to the west room is also from the stair passage, while the doors to the east and north rooms are from the narrow center cross passage. The architraves to both the east and north room doors match the architraves on the northwest side of the first story and have plain corner blocks. The southeast wall of this passage has mill-sawn studs, and there is no header over the door

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 6

frame soffit. The door to the north room has six panels with sunk fields and no panel moulds. It has plain cast iron butt hinges and a cast iron plate latch that appears to be original because the door is not painted underneath of it. The north room on the southeast wall has a closet set to the northeast. The closet has two typical six-panel doors and the same architrave as found on the door to this room. The closet doors are hung on plain cast iron butt hinges. The locks are missing. According to the owner, there was a door from the east room to this closet, as well. The west room has the same trim as the rest of the second story.

There is a typical six-panel door to the attic stairs hung on plain cast iron butt hinges, with a suffolk latch. The stairway from the first story has a handrail that was originally carried up all the way to the attic door frame. The balusters are set in mortises in the floor. The hand rail is painted. The first coat appears to be a red, like a mahogany, but is painted and not stained and varnished wood. On top of this red is a dark green, then a brown combed finish over a white base coat. This latter finish was done twice. Then a cream color was painted on top of it, and then finally a white.

The attic has winder stairs that are enclosed. The attic is finished with hand-split lath and plaster suggesting this is an original or very early treatment. Around the top of the attic stairs are three rails set in notches in a post and fastened with cut nails. There is a wall running southeast to northwest that divides the attic into two spaces. There are two four-light sash on both the southwest and northeast ends. There are random-width, wide floor boards that are face-nailed with cut nails. The original chimney on the northeast end was larger than the existing one. There is a hatch in the ceiling that leads to an attic space above the collar beams. The collar beams are mill sawn and are  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches by 4 inches. They are nailed to the sides of the rafters. Written in what appears to be white chalk on a framing board for this hatch is the number "18" and what looks like a "7 and 6" combined, and then "1" with a line underneath of this number, and the number "1844" below it. The attic rafters are mill sawn with a center tenon and peg at the ridge and sawn Roman numerals. The rafters are  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to 3 inches wide and appear to be slightly tapered, as they are about 4 inches deep at the ridge and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep near the foot. They are spaced  $22\frac{1}{2}$  to 24 inches on centers. The rafter feet have a birdsmouth cut that laps over a false plate that is nailed on top of one of the floor boards. The rafters support lath and have a diagonal-lath wind brace set into the top faces of the rafters from the end rafter. There is a tongue-and-grooved, beaded-edge, vertical-board door hung on plain cast iron butt hinges that gives access to the eaves ends of the attic and permits viewing of the rafter foot configuration. The eaves ends of the attic space are not floored.

The southwest elevation, second-story exterior wall of the original log structure is partly enclosed by the attic of the southwest kitchen addition. In the attic, much early or

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 7

original material is visible, which may answer some questions and raise several others. There was apparently a window in the southeast bay of the second story. It has been infilled with logs fastened with cut nails. The current roof line of the addition cuts through the middle of this window, but there is also siding on the southwest elevation that suggests an earlier roof line for an earlier addition, and this roof line also cuts through this infilled window opening. The siding has bevelled novelty siding fastened with cut nails and it is fastened on vertical nailers nailed to the logs with cut nails. The angle of this roof line suggests that the eave was parallel with the front or southeast elevation of the log structure, yet the stone foundation wall in the cellar is approximately 5 to 6 feet northwest of the southeast line of the building. Thus, it is possible that the southeast elevation of the earlier addition had a porch. Where the logs were exposed in the attic of the earlier addition there is some whitewash. It is also possible to see the ends of the siding boards that are now covered by the aluminum siding on the log house. This siding is typical German siding with a curve to it, as opposed to the bevel on the siding found elsewhere. The curved German siding is most likely a later addition than the beveled novelty siding.

The attic flooring of the addition has a hewn summer beam with sawn joists that are mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged to it. The joists run northwest to southeast, but no pegs were used. It appears that this is a reused floor structure as was found in the first story of the addition. The attic has  $\frac{3}{4}$ -round log rafters that are mitered at the ridge and support lath. The rafter feet are squared off and fastened to a circular-sawn false plate. The feet are set right over the joists. The southwest gable end has diagonal tongue-and-groove boards creating a chevron pattern. There are horizontal boards of some sort on the outer sides of these chevron boards.

About 40 feet east of the house is a poultry house with concrete foundation, German siding, and a shed roof of inverted-V-seam metal that slopes to the northwest. It is built of 2 x 4 construction, and is partially collapsed.

About 80 feet southeast of the house is a wagon shed with a rubble stone foundation, beaded-edge-and-center, vertical-board siding, and a gable roof of corrugated metal with a ridge that runs northwest to southeast. It is built of a circular-sawn, heavy-timber nailed frame. There is a door on rollers on both the northwest and southeast ends, with a 6/6 sash in the northwest gable end and an opening in the southeast gable end.

There is a bank barn about 25 feet south of the wagon shed. It has a parged lower story and a vertical-board upper story. The gable roof has a ridge running northwest to southeast, and the forebay is on the southwest elevation. The southwest elevation has a large new addition on the first story and no openings on the second story. The northwest elevation has no openings on the upper story. The lower story has two paired four-light casements and



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 8

a beaded-edge-and-center, vertical-board dutch door on strap hinges beneath the forebay. The northeast elevation has corrugated metal wagon doors on rollers. The southeast elevation has two 4/6 sash in the lower story, and no openings in the upper story. The lower story was not accessible. The upper story has a center threshing floor with one hay mow on each side and a granary in the north corner. It has a hewn, mortised-and-tenoned-and-pegged heavy-timber frame with mill-sawn braces. There are approximately 2 x 4 rafters with a hay track in the ridge. The bents have five vertical posts, but the center post extends only up to the top girt. The two posts that flank it create a Queen post truss that supports the roof. The top girt has been cut out and dropped to give greater access to the hay mows. It is now strapped to the posts in a lower location.

KS/lc:8-4-95:Carr1424.des

## 8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1424

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1849

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Summary:

George Crouse of York, Pennsylvania received the deed for the 89-acre tract that was to become his tannery in 1841 for \$539.71. The low cost suggests that there were no improvements at that time. Crouse had purchased the land several years earlier and must have set about immediately to create a tanyard, as the 1841 tax book assesses him for one worth \$500. By 1852 the tannery was worth \$2,850, well above the value of the land and its "House of Wood". Crouse apparently constructed the log dwelling in 1849. Crouse sold his tannery in 1856 to William L. Nace for \$6,000. Nace quickly found himself in financial trouble. Court records noted that "... a short time prior to ... [6 December 1858] the buildings attached to and forming part of the Tanyard ... were consumed by fire and that up to said time the said Nace carried on the business of Tanning ... and since the destruction of said buildings the said Nace has suspended the carrying on said business of tanning ... ." It was purchased by Leonard Critzer in 1866. At that time the tax assessor noted only a log house and stable on the property, with no note of the tannery, which apparently disappeared. Critzer was probably a pretty average farmer. Ten years later he was assessed for a frame barn. The farm has now been reduced to under two acres, but the surrounding land continues to be agricultural. The house is currently undergoing restoration.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Agriculture-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870;

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Agriculture, Architecture, Economic (Industrial)

Resource Types: Rural vernacular, Small family farm

George Crouse of York, Pennsylvania received the deed for the 89-acre tract that was to become his tannery in 1841 for \$539.71. The low cost, only \$6.06 per acre, suggests that there were no improvements at that time. Crouse probably set about immediately to create a tanyard, as the 1841 tax book assesses him for one worth \$500. By 1852 the tannery was worth \$2,850, well above the value of the land and its "House of Wood". Crouse apparently constructed the existing log dwelling in 1849. This is suggested because in 1926, during

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

remodeling of the house, the owner, Robert Fleming, found a wood box in a wall that contained a number of old newspapers. These included The Baltimore Weekly Sun of 25 August 1849, The German Reformed Messenger of 12 September 1849, and The Carroll County Democrat of 9 August 1849. The latter had "G. Crouse" written on the top.

The house Crouse built was a rather large and elegant log structure with a wide, formal side passage and an unusual wide doorway between the front and back rooms, perhaps creating one of the earliest double parlors in Carroll County. This house has the latest documented use of hand-split lath in the County. The second-story floor plan is also unique. The house apparently had a wing added to the southwest, perhaps for a kitchen, prior to the construction of the existing wing. The house probably had a porch on the northwest elevation.

Crouse sold his tannery in 1856 to William L. Nace for \$6,000, though Nace may have been operating it for a longer period of time. Nace mortgaged the property to the farm of W. Crane & Son. Nace quickly found himself in financial trouble and turned his property over to a trustee in 1858 who promptly advertised for the sale of the property. The ad simply described the 108½-acre farm as "improved with a comfortable dwelling house, good stable, and other convenient outbuildings." It added, almost as an afterthought, that there was also a tannery, although the tannery building had been destroyed by fire. This loss is probably what caused Nace's troubles, as court records noted that " . . . a short time prior to . . . [6 December 1858] the buildings attached to and forming part of the Tanyard . . . were consumed by fire and that up to said time the said Nace carried on the business of Tanning . . . and since the destruction of said buildings the said Nace has suspended the carrying on said business of tanning . . . ." The sale of his property also included a six horsepower engine and eight horsepower boiler.

The Crane's quickly went to court to stop the sale of the property. In addition to the mortgage of \$6,000 they held on the tannery, they were owed money that they advanced to Nace to purchase bark and pay labor, and had sent him hides to be tanned. The Crane's calculated that Nace owed them \$11,856.14, and contended that the real estate was not worth enough to cover the mortgage as a result of the fire. The Cranes explained their business relationship with Nace to the court:

. . . from the 9th day of June in the year 1851 to the 21st day of October in the year 1858 your Orators furnished to the said Nace a very large quantity of hides to be tanned by him under an arrangement and agreement that the property in said hides was to remain in your Orators and that they were to be tanned and returned as leather by said Nace to your Orators where your Orators were to allow to said Nace for tanning the same the difference in value between the prices at which said leather would sell and the value of said hides

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

when the same were received by him with the interest on the account of said valuation and the regular commission to your Orators for selling said leather.

While Nace denied this agreement, claiming he took the hides on credit and returned leather to be sold on credit, he did sign contracts setting up the relationship described by the Cranes.

Nace received hides, via the Cranes, from Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Norfolk, Philadelphia, New York, Connecticut, Mobile, New Orleans, St. Louis, Kentucky and California, often in lots of 100. Over the eight years that he was in business, Nace averaged 852 hides a year, with the lowest being 450 in 1852 and the highest 1,101 in 1856. Nace also acquired hides on his own account and tanned them, and there are bills and receipts for buying black oak bark, hauling hides, and the labor of rolling leather. In one instance, 3,300 hides were involved and in another 3,400 hides. It would thus appear that Nace had a substantial operation.

An injunction was granted on the sale and Andrew F. Crane was appointed trustee to sell the property. His advertisement in August 1859 was considerably more detailed than the previous one, no doubt because he had a financial interest that the first trustee lacked. The description stated:

The improvements consist of a good substantial, comfortable, TWO STORY & ATTIC DWELLING HOUSE, With Water in the Kitchen, a STABLE, and other convenient Out-Houses. There is also on the place a Valuable and Convenient TANNERY, with the advantage of a never failing stream of Water. The shops have been destroyed by fire, but can be rebuilt at a moderate expense. The Tanyard consists of one Pool, two Limes, four Bates and Handlers, and fifty-four Vats and Leaches, more or less, . . . being located in one of the best Bark districts of the State. There is a sufficient quantity of Bark stacked now at the Yard to commence operations immediately. With the Yard will be sold, ONE SIX HORSE POWER ENGINE, ONE EIGHT HORSE POWER BOILER, Fixtures, &c.

The mention of the attic in the advertisement is unusual and suggests that it was finished from the beginning. The lack of flooring in the eaves of the building also suggests this. Few houses in Carroll County had finished attics. An inventory of the property from this time adds a few details about it, noting there were two bark mills, two wheel barrows, 1,994 sides of leather, both tanned and untanned, on the property. For unknown reasons the property did not sell and was advertised again, in October 1860.

It was purchased by Andrew J. Lownds, who shortly sold it back to the Cranes, who in turn, sold it to Leonard Critzer in 1866. At that time the tax assessor noted only a log

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Survey No. CARR-1424

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 4

house and stable on the property, with no note of the tannery, which apparently disappeared. With livestock worth \$268 and farm implements of \$50, Critzer was probably a pretty average farmer. Ten years later he was assessed for a frame barn. This addition is not noted in the 1866-76 book, which may indicate that it was added close to 1876. The barn and additional outbuildings were worth \$350 and the log dwelling \$400. Critzer also had two horses, three cows, four sheep, and seven hogs, again an average number. Critzer seems to have remained an average farmer up to his retirement about 1899. The farm was sold in 1901. It has now been reduced to under two acres, but the surrounding land continues to be agricultural. The house is currently undergoing restoration.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1424

Land Records

Tax assessments, 1841, 1852, 1866, 1866-76, 1876, 1876-96, 1896-1910

1862, 1877, 1917 maps

Carroll County Times, 12 Mar. 1976, "Carroll County Yesteryears"

Equity 593

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.8913 acres

Quadrangle name Manchester

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

D 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

E 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

F 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

G 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

H 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning Bureau

date 11-15-95

street & number 225 North Center Street

telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster

state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

CARR-1424  
George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

| GRANTOR   | HOME<br>COUNTY     | GRANTEE  | HOME<br>COUNTY | DATE       | LIBER    | FOLIO | TRANS-<br>ACTION                   | COMMENTS  |
|---|--------------------|--|----------------|------------|----------|-------|------------------------------------|---|
| George A. Fleming   | ?                  | David A. & Holly<br>A. Fleming (wife)                      | ?              | 7-27-1994  | LWS 1626 | 306   | Confirmatory<br>deed fee<br>simple | \$5.00, 1.8913<br>acres   |
| Luther R. Fleming<br>George A. Fleming  | Carroll            | George A. Fleming  | Carroll        | 6-26-1987  | LWS 1027 | 377   | Deed fee<br>simple                 | \$92,500, 24.3851<br>acres, part of<br>parcel one below             |
| Luther R. Fleming<br>George A. Fleming<br>personal reps. of Myrle<br>E. Fleming | Carroll<br>Carroll | Luther R. Fleming<br>George A. Fleming                     | Carroll        | 2-14-1972  | CCC 505  | 271   | Deed fee<br>simple                 | \$10.00, 195<br>acres<br>(1) 85+ acres<br>1/3 interest              |
| Charles O. Fisher,<br>trustee   | Carroll            | Myrle E. Fleming<br>Luther R. Fleming<br>George A. Fleming | Carroll        | 12-10-1966 | CCC 415  | 277   | Deed fee<br>simple                 | \$10.00, 195+<br>acres<br>(1) 85+ acres                             |
| Myrle E. Fleming,<br>widow  | Carroll            | Charles O. Fisher,<br>trustee                              | Carroll        | 12-10-1966 | CCC 415  | 274   | Deed fee<br>simple                 | \$10.00, 195<br>acres<br>(1) 85+ acres                              |
| William N. Sherman &<br>Annie M. (wife)   | Carroll            | Robert B. Fleming<br>& Myrle E. (wife)                     |                | 3-12-1921  | EOC 138  | 21    |                                    | \$6,000<br>(1) 89 acres<br>"Old Fort"                               |
| Leonard Kreitzer &<br>Anna Mary (wife)  | Carroll            | William N.<br>Sherman                                      | ?              | 4-19-1901  | JHB 92   | 545   | Deed fee<br>simple                 | \$3,000<br>89+ acres &<br>several other lots                        |
| William Crane & Jean<br>(wife) and Andrew F.<br>Crane & Elizabeth J.<br>(wife)  | Baltimore<br>City  | Leonard Critzer  | Carroll        | 6-13-1866  | WAMcK 33 | 373   | Deed                               | \$2,600, part of<br>"Old Fort" 89+<br>acres & several<br>other lots |

CARR-1424  
George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

| GRANTOR   | HOME<br>COUNTY    | GRANTEE  | HOME<br>COUNTY    | DATE      | LIBER  | FOLIO | TRANS-<br>ACTION  | COMMENTS   |
|---|-------------------|--|-------------------|-----------|--------|-------|-------------------|--|
| Andrew J. & Mary<br>Lownds (wife)                     | Baltimore<br>City | William Crane<br>Andrew F. Crane<br>(trading as W.<br>Crane & Son) | Baltimore<br>City | 3-9-1863  | GEW 29 | 377   | Deed              | \$3,255<br>89+ acres<br>lot 7 - 6+ acres<br>lot 4 - 6+ acres<br>& lot - 6+ acres   |
| Andrew Fuller Crane,<br>trustee of William L.<br>Nace | ?<br>Carroll      | Andrew J. Lownds   | ?                 | 11-4-1861 | GEW 28 | 303   | Deed              | Circuit Court - 9<br>May 1859, 89+<br>acres, lot 7, lot<br>4, 86+ acres<br>[Equity 593 - not<br>recorded in<br>Chancery, met 22<br>Dec. 1858]                          |
| George & Elizabeth<br>Crouse (wife)                   | Carroll           | William L. Nace  | Carroll           | 7-4-1856  | JBB 20 | 327   | Deed<br>Indenture | \$6,000 part of<br>"The Old Fort",<br>89+ acres, lot 7,<br>lot 4, & 6+<br>acres [no<br>previous<br>reference]  |
| John & Elizabeth Shaffer<br>(wife)                    | Carroll           | George Crouse  | York, PA          | 4-3-1841  | WW 5   | 352   | Deed<br>Indenture | \$539.71 part of<br>"The Old Fort",<br>89+ acres,<br>Shaffer bought<br>from Baltimore<br>County Sheriff,<br>Standish Baugt?,<br>14 Dec. 1830,<br>was highest<br>bidder |



CARR-1424

George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

CHAIN OF TITLE

| GRANTOR                  | HOME<br>COUNTY | GRANTEE      | HOME<br>COUNTY | DATE      | LIBER                       | FOLIO | TRANS-<br>ACTION | COMMENTS |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|------------------|----------|
| Standish Bought, sheriff |                | John Shaffer |                | 7-18-1832 | <u>Balto. Co.</u><br>AJ 224 | 142   |                  |          |

KS/le:8-3-95:1424titl.ks

CARR-1424

FACT  
NO.

1/1

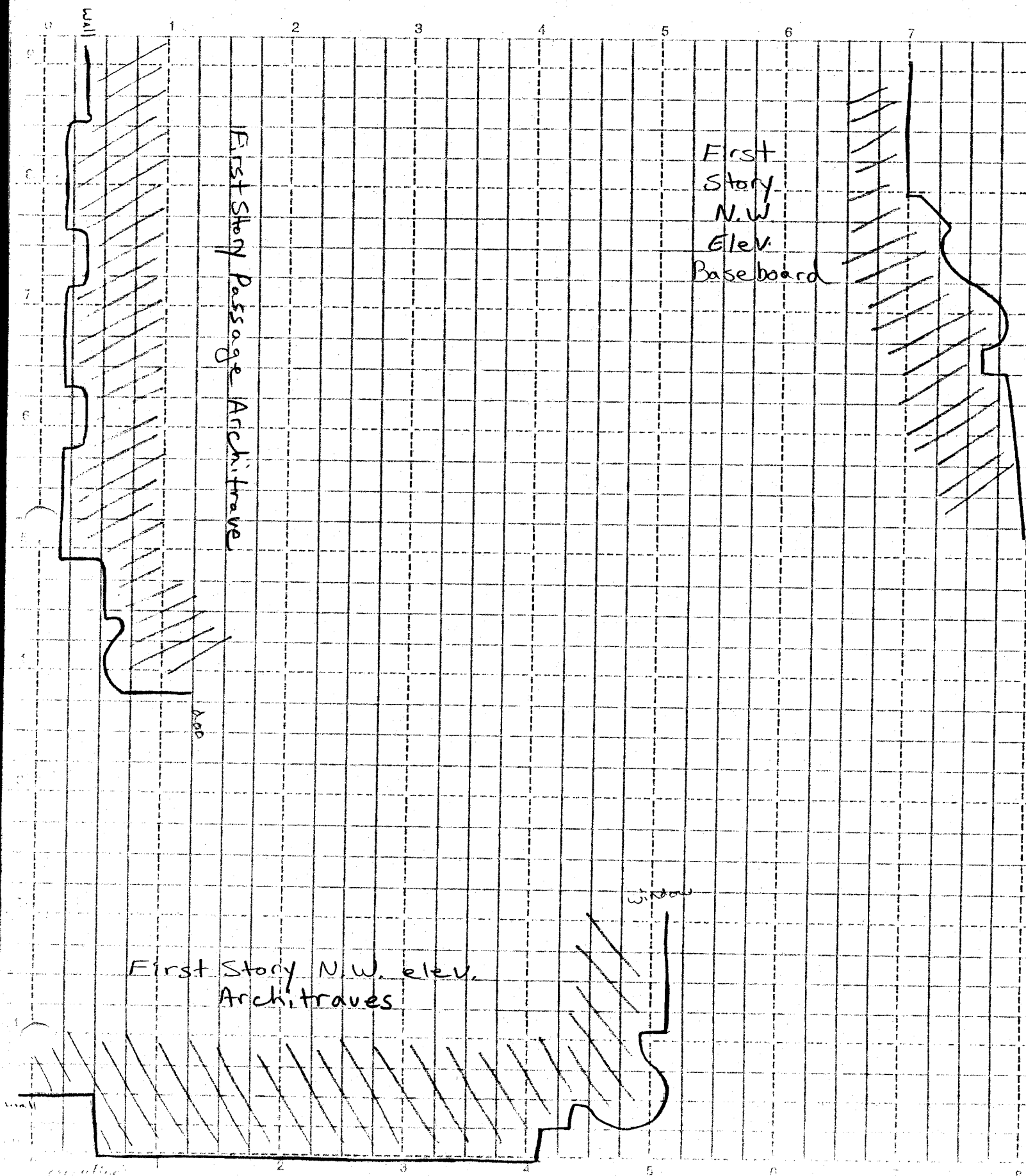
# 2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Moulding Profiles

PREPARED BY

KMS

DATE

24 Feb '95



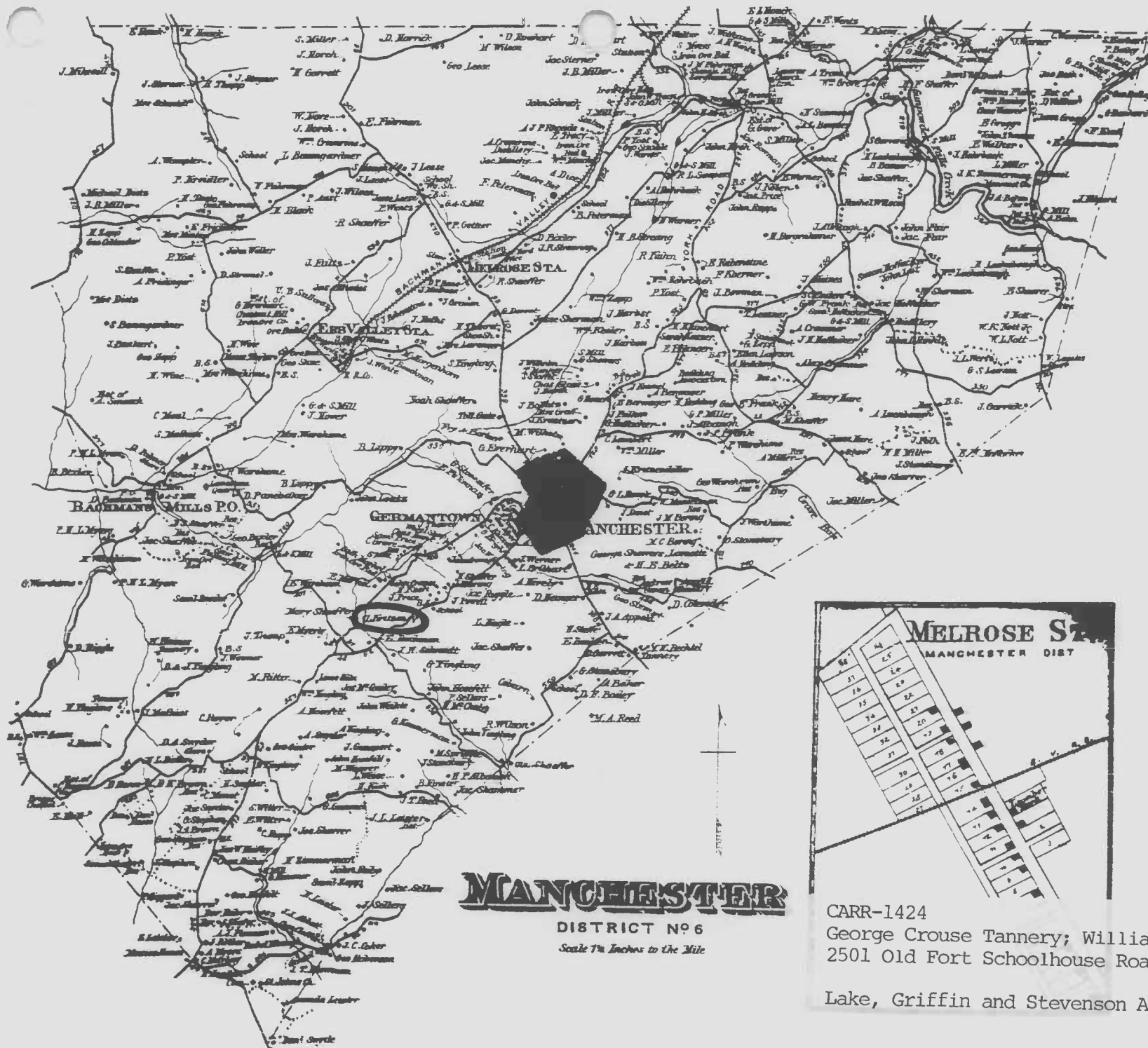


CARR-1424

George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

Martenet Map, 1862

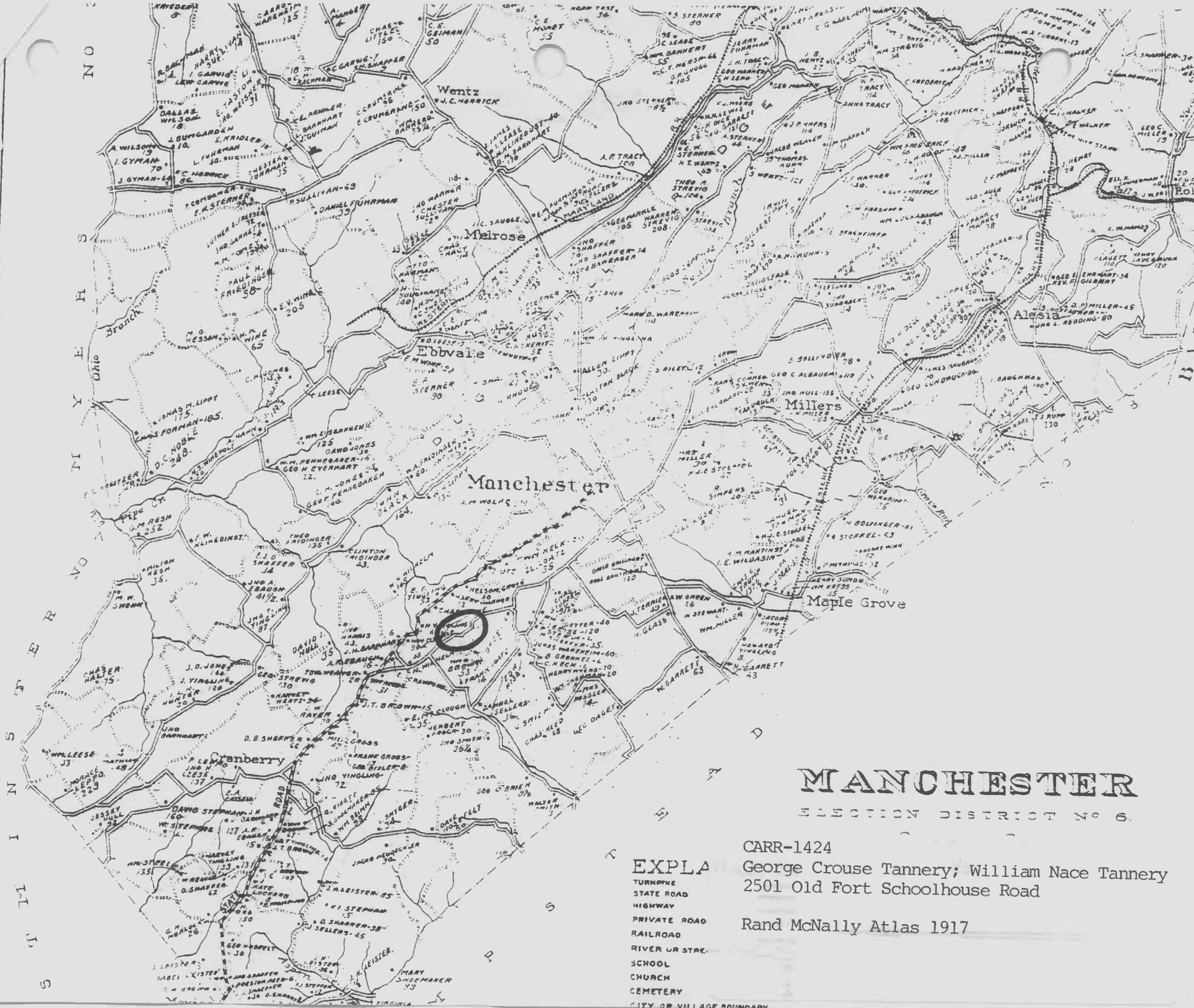
Upper C. R. U.



CARR-1424

George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

Lake, Griffin and Stevenson Atlas 1877



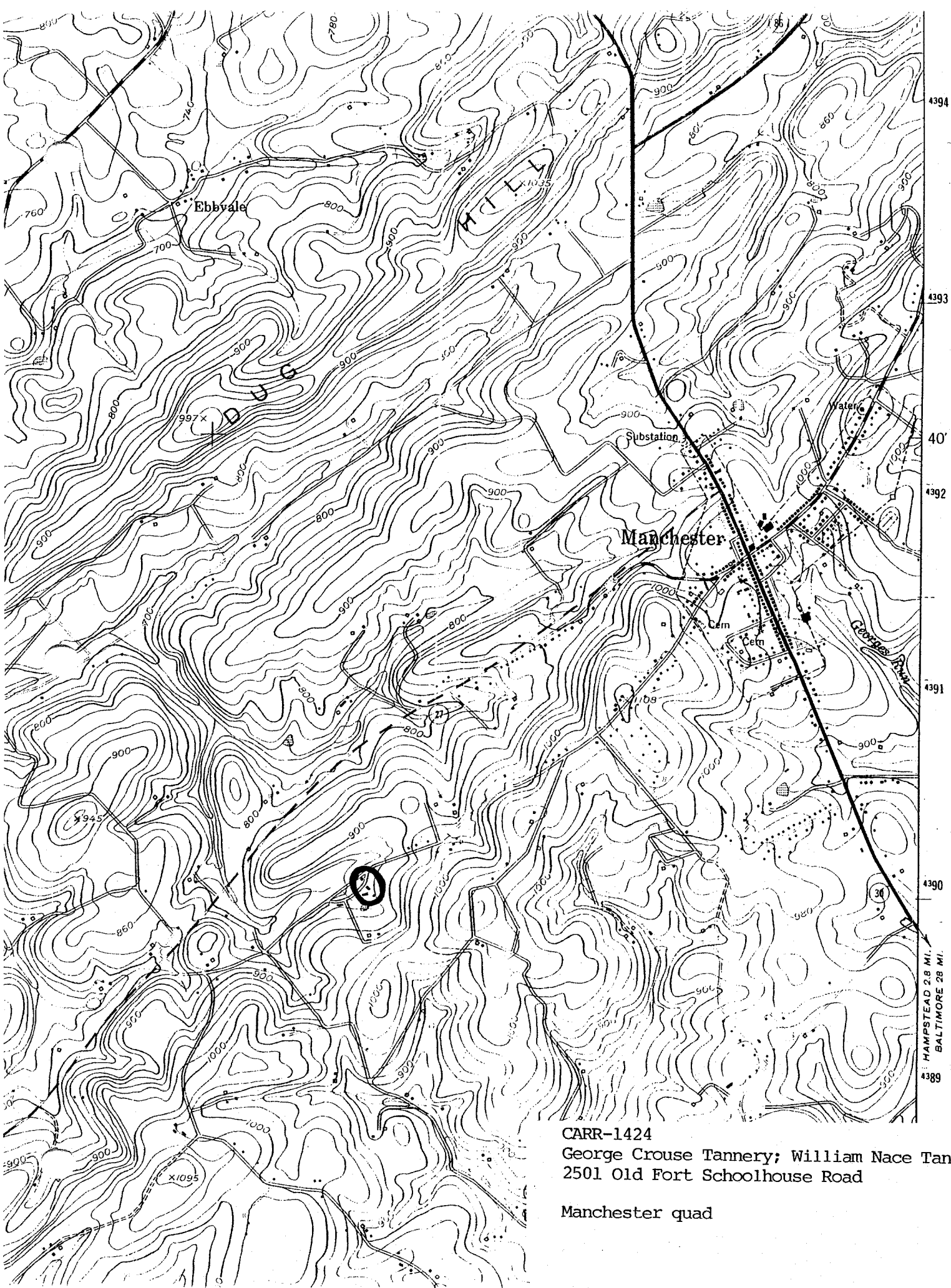
CARR-1424

George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

Rand McNally Atlas 1917







CARR-1424

George Crouse Tannery; William Nace Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Road

Manchester quad





George Crouse Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Feb. 1995

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
SE : NE elevs.



George Crouse Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Feb. 1995

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Stair newel

2/3



CARR-1424

George Crouse Tannery  
2501 Old Fort Schoolhouse Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: Feb-1995

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

SE elev. door